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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

13 OCT 1979

USSR-AFGHANISTAN: Continued Soviet Support

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*The Soviet Union is continuing to provide economic and military support to Afghan President Amin's government although Moscow has not embraced his regime enthusiastically.* [REDACTED]

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Despite Moscow's continued military support, relations between the Soviets and Amin apparently remain uneasy. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] With Watanjar still at large, Amin could be concerned that the Soviets will yet throw their support to him. Afghan forces in some areas of eastern Afghanistan reportedly have been confined to garrison in part to prevent Watanjar from contacting them and organizing a counter coup. [REDACTED]

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Amin has clearly been seeking continued Soviet support. Shortly after the coup, he reportedly sent a message to President Brezhnev asking for more aid and

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reassuring him that Soviet-Afghan relations would be unaffected by Taraki's fall. Amin has also tried to make it appear that he is pursuing the more moderate domestic and foreign policies that the USSR had long been urging. He has, for example, announced creation of the committees Moscow has long called for to broaden domestic support in Afghanistan for the revolution. He also has indicated both publicly and privately his interest in resuming the dialogue with Pakistan. [REDACTED]

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Moscow has reported favorably on some of these changes, but its overall propaganda treatment of Amin remains cool. Private Soviet criticism of Amin continues unabated, and the Soviet Ambassador in Kabul has recently snubbed the regime on several occasions. Moscow is undoubtedly skeptical about the sincerity of Amin's conversion to a more moderate tack, but for the moment apparently sees no realistic alternative. [REDACTED]

-CIA, DIA, NSA-

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